

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 088140

R 261538Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3431

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13450

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS POFR IS RO UR

SUBJ: SOVIET EMIGRATION TO ISREAL: SUSPENSION OF ROMANIAN  
TRANSIT

REF: BUCHAREST 3738 AND 3730 , MOSCOW 13327, 13278

1. AT RECEPTION OCT 26 ROMANIAN MINISTER COUNSELOR CONFIRMED  
TO AMCONSOFF THAT TRANSIT OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL THROUGH  
ROMANIA HAS BEEN RECENTLY BANNED BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. HE  
GAVE REASON AS "BEHAVOIR" OF SOVIET JEWISH TRAVELERS.

2. CONSOFF, EXPRESSING SURPRISE, ASKED WHAT PRECISELY HAD OCCURED TO  
RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF SUCH TRAVEL. ROMANINA OFFICIAL THEN  
LAUNCHED INTO ATTACK ON TRANSITING JEWS, SAYING THEY WERE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR "OUTBURSTS" (VYPADKI) AND DISTURBANCES, AND  
THEY HAD NOT "RESPECTED" ROMANIAN LAWS. ROMANIAN OFFICIAL  
CITED NO RPT NO CONCRETE INCIDENTS DESPITE CONSOFF REQUEST  
FOR SPECIFICS . ASKED IF PROHIBITION WAS TEMPORARY,  
OFFICIAL REPLIED WITHOUT FURTHER EXPLANATION THAT IT IS  
PERMANENT UNLESS THEY (SOVIET JEWS) CAN "GUARANTEE"

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THEY WILL OBSERVE ROMANIAN "ORDER". HE ADDED RHETORICALLY:

"AND, WHO CAN GIVE SUCH A GUARANTEE?"

3. TWO SOVIET MFA OFFICIALS (INCLUDING DEPUTY CHIEF MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION) PARTICIPATED IN FOUR-WAY EXCHANGE. THEY SEEMED STARTLED BY ROMANIAN'S COMMENTS AND LIMITED THEMSELVES TO STATEMENT THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD "CONTINUE TO LET EVERYONE GO WHERE THEY WISHED."

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAD NOT RPT NOT PREVIOUSLY ENCOUNTERED SUCH CHARGES OF EMIGRANTS' MISCONDUCT. MINISTER-COUNSELOR'S COMMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED IN PART FOR SOVIET OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN CONVERSATION. IT IS NOTEWORTHY IN THIS REGARD THAT ANOTHER ROMANIAN EMBOFF STATED TO AMCONSOFF IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION OCT 25 THAT TRANSIT OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS HAD BEEN "TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED" BECAUSE (A) BUCHAREST -TEL AVIV TRANSPORT FACILITIES INADEQUATE DUE TO MIDEAST WAR; AND (B) ROMANIAN NOW IN "DIFFICULT POSITION" ON EMIGRATION ISSUE. TONE AS WELL AS SUBSTANCE OF THIS EMBOFF'S COMMENTS DIFFERED MARKEDLY FROM THOSE OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR. FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT MINISTER -COUNSELOR 'S COMMENTS DO NOT BODE WELL FOR EARLY REINSTATEMENT OF TRANSIT FACILITIES.  
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